

July 11, 2022

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Offered by: MAYOR HARRIGAN, PRESIDENT SOMMERVILLE, VICE PRESIDENT FUSCO, PRESIDENT PRO TEM FREEMAN

RESOLUTION NO. _____-2022 expressing sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Jayland Walker; supporting the rights of citizens to assemble and engage in peaceful demonstrations; urging the community to seek peace and to engage in respectful dialogue; urging the City to designate and observe Wednesday, July 13, 2022, a citywide day of mourning in the City of Akron; condemning acts of violence and destruction; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, on Monday morning, June 27, 2022, members of the Akron Police Department were involved in an officer-involved shooting that ended in the tragic death of Mr. Jayland Walker; and

WHEREAS, the death of Jayland Walker has profoundly affected the entire City of Akron and this Council extends its sincere condolences to his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, there are no words that will lessen the shock, pain, and grief felt right now, and the City mourns in this tragedy; and

WHEREAS, Akron is a welcoming community that embraces diversity, engages in ongoing community dialogue, and is committed to racial equity and social justice; and

WHEREAS, the City supports and welcomes the right to peacefully assemble and demonstrate; and

WHEREAS, the City encourages robust discussions about difficult topics and supports advocacy to change unjust laws, and supports those who press for meaningful change, by engaging their local, state, and federal legislatures; and

WHEREAS, the City welcomes non-violent, non-destructive gatherings and demonstrations, which history has shown can yield significant and lasting progress; and

WHEREAS, as the honorable Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., emphasized “nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon, which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals;” and

WHEREAS, the City commends and respects the Walker family, which has pleaded for peaceful engagement and nonviolent, nondestructive demonstrations; and they deserve the peace they have requested; and

WHEREAS, in the short time that has passed since Jayland Walker’s death, at least 3 additional Akron residents have succumbed to injuries resulting from gun violence. These

senseless losses have left the City and its residents hurt and grieving, which is only increased with each additional loss of life. The City now needs time to process and express its grief so that healing may begin, and a citywide day of mourning on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 – the day Jayland is funeralized – will provide a solid foundation upon which to begin that healing process. In light of this, Council respectfully requests that Mayor Horrigan designate Wednesday, July 13, 2022, as a citywide day of mourning in the City of Akron; and

WHEREAS, the City condemns those in Akron who seek, and who have come to Akron for, non-peaceful engagement, destructive purposes or to take part in violent acts; violence and destruction are antithetical to core values of the City of Akron and are disrespectful to the wishes of the Walker family and will not be tolerated; and

WHEREAS, the City urges that the friends and family of Jayland Walker, and the entire Akron community, be surrounded with love and peace, and that the City would begin to heal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Akron:

Section 1. That Council hereby expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Jayland Walker.

Section 2. That Council hereby expresses its support of the rights of citizens to assemble and engage in peaceful demonstrations, urges the community to seek peace and to engage in respectful dialogue, and condemns acts of violence and destruction.

Section 3. That Council hereby urges the City to designate and observe Wednesday, July 13, 2022, a citywide day of mourning in the City of Akron.

Section 4. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, safety and welfare for the reason that it is immediately necessary for Council to express its sorrow and sympathy for the loss of Jayland Walker, and provided this resolution receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time allowed by law.

Passed _____, 2022

Clerk of Council

President of Council

Approved _____, 2022

MAYOR